

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 18, 22, 28, 36, and 37; claims 2, 3, 8, 11-17, 21, 24-27, 35, and 38-43 have been canceled; and claim 53 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 18-20, 22, 23, 28-34, 36, 37, and 53 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the conditional allowance of claims 3, 7-10, 21, 22 and 35-37. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claims 2 and 3. Claim 53 has been added to include the limitations of original claim 1 and original claim 8. Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 21. Claim 28 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 35.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-20, 23-34 and 38-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kallio (US 2002/0147008). The Applicants have amended the claims to better distinguish the claimed invention from Kallio. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7

The Examiner stated in the Office Action that claims 3 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of original claims 2 and 3. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Claims 4-7 depended from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1.

Claims 8-10

The Examiner stated in the Office Action that claims 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have added claim 53 which includes the limitations of original claim 1 and original claim 8. Claim 8 has been canceled. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to depend from added claim 53 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 53.

Claims 11-17

The Applicants have canceled claims 11-17.

Claims 18-23

The Examiner stated in the Office Action that claims 21 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended claim 18 to incorporate the limitations of original claim 21. Claim 21 has been canceled. Claims 19, 20, 22, and 23 depended from amended claim 18 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 18.

Claims 24-27

The Applicants have canceled claims 24-27.

Claims 28-37

The Examiner stated in the Office Action that claims 35-37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended claim 28 to incorporate the limitations of original Claim 35. Claim 35 has been canceled. Claims 29-34, 36, and 37 depend from amended claim 28 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 28.

Claims 38-43

The Applicants have canceled claims 38-43.

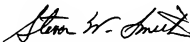
Therefore, the allowance of claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 18-20, 22, 23, 28-34, 36, 37, and 53 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 18-20, 22, 23, 28-34, 36, 37, and 53.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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